Defence Minister's visit to Russia

*134. SHRI SURESH PACHOUR1: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Minister was on official visit to Russia recently;

(b) if so, the objective behind the visit; and

(c) the outcome of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence Minister visited Russia to co-Chair the third meeting of the Indo-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission for Military Technical Cooperation held in Moscow from January 15-17,2003. During this visit he held discussions on a wide range of international and regional issues of mutual interest with the H.E. M.M. Kas'yanov, Chairman of the Government of the Russia Federation, H.E. I.S. Ivanov, Russian Foreign Minister, S.D. Ivanov, Russian Defence Minister and Vladimir Rushailo, National Security Council Adviser. During these discussions both sides re-affirmed and reinforced their commitment to the ongoing Indo-Russian strategic relationship deriving from a convergence of views relating to current international issues, including the problem of terrorism.

Infiltration of terrorists on Bangladeshi passport

†*135: SHRI BALKAVIBAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that ISI, the infamous agency of Pakistan has devised a new way of infiltrating terrorists into India under fake identity after the tightening of security by India on border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that now ISI is infiltrating terrorists on the passports of Bangladesh; and

(c) if replies to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the steps taken by Government to keep a check on such activities alongwith the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.